

FLD
895

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A

COUNTRY	Cuba	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	Communist Activity in the Labor Unions of Las Villas Province	DATE DISTR.	19 August 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
	25X1A	REFERENCES	

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1X

SOURCE:

1. In the municipality of Yaguajay, Las Villas Province, Cuba, there are large groups of Communist agitators working at the Nela, Victoria, and Narcisa sugar mills. The executive committees of the unions of the Nela and Victoria mills are in the hands of anti-Communist leaders, and at the present time there appears to be no danger that they will lose this leadership. The Narcisa Workers' Union, on the other hand, is completely under the control of Communists led by Miguel GALAN BLANCO, secretary general of the executive committee. It is absolutely necessary to be a Communist or a Communist sympathizer to obtain work at the Narcisa mill.
2. The Natividad sugar mill, located in the municipality of Sancti Spiritus, is another Communist hotbed. The Sugar Mill Workers' Industrial Union and the Sugar Mill Agricultural Workers' Union at Natividad are both under Communist leadership. Amador ANTUNEZ, Communist, is secretary general of the executive committee of the former union. However, Armando ACOSTA, leader of the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP, Cuban Communist Party) municipal committee of Sancti Spiritus, is also the real leader of the union, even though he is only a delegate to the executive committee from the Cagueira colony. The Agricultural Workers' Union is headed by Antonio MASSIP and Juan TORRES, both Communists.
3. The Tuinicu sugar mill in Sancti Spiritus has been penetrated by a considerable number of Communists. When the Communists controlled the labor movement in Cuba the Sugar Mill Workers' and Sugar Industry Employees' Union of Tuinicu was always under the leadership of anti-Communists, although unsuccessful attempts were made by Jesus MENENDEZ and other labor leaders to gain control of the union for the Communists. At present, however, Cesar GONZALEZ Lopez, secretary general who had always been considered an anti-Communist, made a united-front pact with the Communists in the last elections and prepared a list of united-front candidates, which was successful. The list contained the following six Communists: Cesar BEIRA Pruna, vice secretary-general; Wilfredo Legon VALDES, delegate to

CONFIDENTIAL

RETURN TO ARCHIVES & RECORDS CENTER
IMMEDIATELY AFTER USE
21

222708

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

- 2 -

the directive body; Jose Antonio PERALTA, culture and propaganda secretary; Ramon de la Torre VALDIVIA, vice secretary of discipline; Hugo LEGON Zayas, vice recording secretary; and Jose TORRES Diaz, youth and sports secretary. The anti-Communist leaders at the Tuinicu mill expect that, from now on, Communist penetration will be conducted on a more open scale.

4. Manuel PERIUT, secretary general of the Sugar Workers' Union in the Zaza sugar mill in Las Villas Province and a leader of the Communist-dominated tobacco sorters of Placetas municipality, has made a united-front pact with the Communists and collaborates openly with them. In the Reforma sugar mill union, in Caibarien municipality, although anti-Communist leaders predominate, several Communists are in minor positions on the executive committee. Furthermore, Caibarien is an important center of Communist activity, and the following unions are in the hands of the Communists: The Tobacco Twisters' Union; the Port Sacs Record-Keepers' Union; the El Yara Longshoremens' Union; the Caibarien Port Longshoremens' Union; the Coastal Trade Workers' Union; the Seamens' Union; the Railroad Brotherhood Union #4; the Seamstresses' Union; and the Barbershop Workers' and Related Federation of Workers' Union. In addition to the above, the Local Federation of Unions, to which the Reforma sugar mill union is affiliated, is presided over by Lorenzo Paret FERNANDEZ, well-known Communist leader. Rodolfo ROJAS, secretary general of the La Fe sugar mill union, is a former Communist now affiliated with the Partido Accion Unitaria (PAU). Until recently he was a reporter for Hoy, the Communist daily newspaper. He has also made a united-front pact with the Communists, a factor which accounts for the progress the Communists are making at the mill.
5. The Communists are making progress in the Ulacia, Maria Antonia, and Washington sugar mills. In Corazon de Jesus, Santa Teresa, and Resulta sugar mills the policies of Conrado RODRIGUEZ are followed blindly. RODRIGUEZ has made a united-front pact with the Communists and collaborates openly with them in order to oppose the policies of Eusebio MUJAL, secretary general of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Cuba (CTC), and Jose Luis MARTINEZ, secretary general of the Federacion Nacional de Trabajadores Azucareros (FNTA). At the Ramona sugar mill there has been some penetration by the Communists but they do not control any office of importance.
6. The unions at the Pastora and Andreita sugar mills have Communist secretaries general, who won those positions through a united-front list of candidates. The Parque Altos or Angelita sugar mill union is led by Andres MALAGRIDA Sagasti, an anti-Communist. However, MALAGRIDA has misappropriated union funds and defrauded workers, and he failed to call for union elections on 24 February 1953. The FNTA intervened and set the elections for 23 August 1953. Eusebio MUJAL is backing MALAGRIDA, who has presented a united-front list of candidates, including Santos HERNANDEZ Rodriguez, a Communist, for the post of financial secretary. Jose Luis MARTINEZ of the FNTA is backing a list of anti-Communist candidates, which includes several PAU affiliates of little importance.
7. The leadership of the FNTA is split into two factions. The followers of Eusebio MUJAL are: Angel RODRIGUEZ, aka Chichi, organizational secretary; Anibal ALVAREZ, financial secretary; Raul VALDIVIA, vice secretary-general; and others of lesser importance. The followers of Jose Luis MARTINEZ are: Jose RIBALTA, aka Cheo; Julian SOTOLONGO Morales; Antonio ARECES Serrano; and others, all of whom are former Communists or Communists registered as members of the PAU. The struggle for leadership between the above two groups has been one of the primary factors in assisting the Communists to penetrate the sugar mill unions.

CONFIDENTIAL